

Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

Pre School

TUSLA Identifier:	TU2015MN055
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Name of Service:	Tír Na nÓg
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Address of Service:	Corracloughan, Monaghan Road, Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan
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Eircode:	A75 DD23
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Name of Registered Provider:	Fionnuala Lynch
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Service type:	Full Day, Part Time, Sessional
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Date of Inspection:	10/11/2023
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No of pre-school children:	AM	28	PM	20
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Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:	No.18 The Grange, Plantation Walk, Monaghan Co. Monaghan
Inspection undertaken by:	S. Skinnader
Title:	Early Years Inspector

Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

Conditions if applicable	Not Applicable
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Description of service

This privately owned service was established in 2004. It provides Full Day care, part-time and sessional services to children aged 0 - 6years. The service operates from 07:30 – 18:30 and the setting caters for a maximum of 30 children. It participates in the Early Childhood Care and Education scheme (ECCE) from 9:00 – 12:00 each day.

Staffing

The service employs 7 staff, 6 of whom including the registered provider who work directly with the preschool children. The 7th staff member is employed as ancillary staff whose duties include cooking the dinner, school pick-ups and cleaning.

Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare and development of child/ safety/ premises and facilities. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

The inspection focused on an examination of compliance under regulations 9, 11, 20, 21, 22 and 26. However, on inspection an additional non-compliance which posed a risk was identified under Regulation 29. These findings are outlined within the relevant regulations within this report.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the registered provider, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*

(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*
- (d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early Childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.

Compliance Information

(1)(a) & (b) The service had a designated person in charge and named deputy person to deputise as required. Both were on the premises when the inspectors arrived and were present throughout the inspection.

Seven staff files were reviewed.

(2)(a) & (b) There were 2 written and validated references from a past employer or an alternative source available for all members of staff in the service.

(c) Documentary evidence of a processed Garda Vetting Disclosure was available for each of the 7 staff members.

(d) Following a review of the staff files presented for inspection documentary evidence of international police vetting was available for the 2 staff members who had lived outside the Irish jurisdiction for a period of 6 months or more as an adult.

(4) Documentary evidence was available to confirm that the childcare qualification for 6 of the adults in the service met the minimum qualification required to enable them to work directly with the preschool children.

Part III – Management and Staff

Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.

(2) Subject to paragraphs (4) and (5), a registered provider of a full day care service or a part-time day care service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) thereof at that reference number is satisfied.

(8) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) to (7)-

(a) a registered provider of a pre-school service other than a child-minding service or a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that there are at least 2 adults on the premises at all times,

Compliance Information

(1) There were an adequate number of adults present with the preschool children attending the service .

(2) The following adult: child ratios were observed in the care rooms when the inspector arrived at the premises:

Preschool Room:

There were 18 preschool children (aged 2 to 5 years) attending this room plus 1 child from the Baby/Toddler Room with 2 childcare staff.

The child adult ratios were correct.

Baby Room:

There were 9 preschool children (aged 11 months to 2 years and 4 months) attending this room with 3 members of staff. The child adult ratios were correct.

(8)(a) Following a review of the available documentation e.g. staff rotas and children’s attendance records, the information demonstrated that the registered provider ensured that there were at least 2 adults on the premises at all times.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 20 – Facilities for rest and play

(1) Subject to this regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that-

(b) there are adequate and suitable facilities for a pre-school child to rest during the day,

(3) A registered provider of a full day care service, a part-time day care service or a childminding service, other than such a service to which paragraph (2) applies, shall ensure that-

(a) a suitable, safe and secure outdoor space to which the pre-school children attending the service have access on a daily basis is provided on the premises,

Compliance Information

(1)(b) The children attending care rooms had access to a suitable soft area for reading or taking a rest when required. In the Baby/Toddler Room staff were able to sit in this area with the small children. These areas consisted of soft matting, cushions and a small plastic covered sofa.

There was 1 cot room directly off the Baby / Toddler Room with 5 cots for those children under and over 2 years of age who required a sleep.

(3)(a) The children attending all rooms were provided with a change of environment to the outdoor areas during the inspection. The enclosed outdoor play areas were located to the side and back of the premises:

Area 1 was accessed by the children from the Preschool Room. It had an artificial grass surface and contained multiple interest areas including; a construction area, kitchen area, sand pit and water tray, a Garda station, fire station, post office, ride on toys, push pull toys, large outdoor construction waffles and a metal climbing frame.

Area 2 was for the children from the Baby/Toddler Room. It was also enclosed with wooden fencing and gates and had an artificial grass surface. It contained 2 small slides, ride on cars, a playhouse, rockers, basketball hoop, some dolls, push and pull toys and balls.

Non-Compliance Information

(1)(b)

1. The cots in the sleep were too close together with some of them touching and this did not allow for the required 50cm spacing between cots to prevent infection control and is also a health and safety risk. This is a recurrent non-compliance as it was also identified as a non-compliance in the inspection carried out on 8/11/2019.

(3)(a) The plastic toy box in outdoor area 2 was broken and had sharp edges. This was an injury hazard.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Cots have been moved and meeting took place with staff on policy on cot spacing of 50 cm. The room leader from the Baby Room will check daily that all cots are 50cm apart.
2. Broken box was replaced. Daily risk assessment of outdoor area includes the checking of toys and equipment.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence. Copy of Risk assessment.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response and supporting evidence was reviewed. The non-compliances have been addressed and will be for review at the next inspection.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 21 – Equipment and materials

A registered provider shall ensure that there is adequate and suitable furniture, play and work equipment and materials available on the premises of the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

- The Baby /Toddler Room was well resourced with a variety of toys. Furniture was size appropriate for the different age ranges attending the room. There was a soft matted area and a small swing entertainment system. Toys and equipment were stored in low level shelving and included soft balls and building blocks, small world figures, dolls and ponies, fine motor items such as jigsaws and stacking cups. Additionally, there were items to promote sensorial play, art equipment, a kitchen area, interactive and musical toys. The room also contained some books and a pull up rail and mirror.
- The Preschool Room was a well-resourced room with a number of defined interest areas. Each area was supported with a variety of age and developmentally appropriate toys and equipment e.g. a home corner that included a toy kitchen with real world play materials, dolls with clothing and buggies, hair dressing equipment, building blocks and a comfortable area which included soft seating. A sensory box and sensorial equipment such as sand and water trays, playdough, and an art area with painting equipment, writing materials and art supplies were available to the children. A variety of manipulative toys including wooden jigsaws, blocks, connectors, animals were positioned on low level accessible shelving which facilitated the children to select and make their own choices.

Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

Regulation 22 – Food and drink

A registered provider shall ensure that adequate and suitable, nutritious and varied food and drink is available for each pre-school child attending the pre-school service.

Compliance Information

Healthy eating was promoted in the service as was evident by the dinner and snacks provided by the service in the rooms. On the day of the inspection the dinner provided was observed to include mashed potatoes, cauliflower, gravy, chopped sausages and sweetcorn. The morning and afternoon snacks were provided by the parents. Potable drinking water was available for the children to access as required in all rooms. Bottles of infant formula were not currently in use in the Baby/Toddler Room.

Staff assisted children as necessary with their dinner in the Baby /Toddler Room and independence with feeding was also promoted where appropriate in the care rooms.

Part VI - Safety

Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

- (1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*
- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
 - (b) the number, type and maintenance record of firefighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

Compliance Information

- (1)(a) A record was maintained of all fire drills which had been completed in the service, the last recorded being 20/10/2023.
- (b) A record was kept of the number, type and maintenance of the fire-fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises dated the 20/06/2023.
- (4) Notices of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire were conspicuously displayed in the premises.

Part VII - Premises and Space Requirements

Regulation 29 - Premises

*A registered provider shall ensure that the premises of the service are-
(d) cleaned, maintained and repaired, as required,*

Non-Compliance Information

1. Some of the cot frames and skirting boards in the sleep room had accumulations of dust and particles of dirt on them and required cleaning. This was also at variance to the sleep room cleaning schedule which stated cot frames should be cleaned between each use.

Corrective & Preventive Action submitted by the Registered Provider

Corrective and Preventive Action

1. Area was cleaned and we relooked at our cleaning schedule and the senior staff of in the baby room to recheck at end of each day.

Supporting documentation submitted

Photographic evidence.

Summary Comment

The registered provider's response has been reviewed and the non-compliance has been addressed.